

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00651 01 OF 02 280950Z

10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /081 W

----- 086675

R 280730Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3603

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0651

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO

SUBJECT: CABINDA

REF: LUANDA 0617 AND 0618

1. SUMMARY. A RECENT VISIT TO CABINDA BY A CONGEN OFFICER FOUND THE ENCLAVE FIRMLY UNDER THE JOINT CONTROL OF MPLA, FNLA AND UNITA AND THE CABINDAN POPULATION EQUALLY FIRM IN THEIR DESIRE TO BE FINALLY RID OF ANGOLA. THE ZAIRE-CABINDA BORDER IS WIDE OPEN AND UNPATROLLED BY ANY LIBERATION GROUP. FLEC'S "ARMIES" ARE VARIOUSLY REPORTED TO TOTAL 7,000 (ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE MILITARY), 3,000-4,000 (UNITA'S LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER), AND 300 TO 500 (A LONG TIME WHITE PORTUGUESE RESIDENT CLOSE TO FLEC). REPORTEDLY THE RAGTAG BAND OF PORTUGUESE TROOPS STILL IN CABINDA ARE ABOUT TO BE REPLACED BY TWO "COPCON" COMPANIES FROM PORTUGAL, ONE OF WHICH IS TO BE PLACED INSIDE GULF'S INSTALLATIONS, CONTRARY TO THE COMPANY'S WISHES. END SUMMARY.

2. CONTROL. THE THREE LIBERATION GROUPS CLAIM TO HAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00651 01 OF 02 280950Z

TOGETHER ABOUT 6,000 TROOPS IN CABINDA, A FIGURE CONSIDERABLY

GREATER THAN THE PORTUGUESE ESTIMATE OF 2,225 (SECOND REFTEL). MPLA IS IN EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF THE AREA NORTH OF BELIZE ALTHOUGH FNLA IS SLOWLY MOVING INTO AREAS TO THE SOUTH OF THAT TOWN. SURPRISINGLY, FNLA SEEMS TO BE WELL-RECEIVED IN THE MIOMBE ETHNIC AREA TO THE NORTH. THIS IS POSSIBLY DUE TO THE MIOMBES' STRONG ANTI-MPLA FEELING COUPLED WITH THEIR ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR FLEC. MPLA'S TROOPS (A FEW OF THEM WHITE) ARE WELL TURNED OUT AND ARMED WITH MINT-CONDITION BLOC WEAPONS. FNLA EQUIPMENT APPEARS TO BE DREGS. (HOWEVER, FNLA NOT ONLY BOASTS A FEW WHITE SOLDIERS, BUT EVEN A SHAPELY WHITE FEMALE SERGEANT.) UNITA WITH ITS USUAL GRAB-BAG ASSORTMENT OF WEAPONS, APPEARS WELL ORGANIZED AND WITH PLENTY OF JEEP AND TRUCK TRANSPORT. ACCORDING TO UNITA'S SOLDIERS, MORALE, WHILE NOT BAD, WOULD BE MUCH IMPROVED IF THE LOCAL GIRLS WEREN'T SO UNCOOPERATIVE AND SAVIMBI WOULD DROP HIS CURRENT ANTI-SMOKING CAMPAIGN. ALL THE GROUPS CARRY ARMS EVEN OFF DUTY WHILE THE PORTUGUESE SHUFFLE ABOUT UNARMED EVEN WHEN ON DUTY.

3. INTER-GROUP COOPERATION. CLOSE AT THE TOP. SO CLOSE THAT THE THREE LEADERS IN CABINDA MET CONSTANTLY THROUGHOUT THE RECENT TROUBLE IN LUANDA (APRIL 28-MAY 2) TO AVOID THEIR REPLICATION IN CABINDA. THE THREE GROUPS ROTATE DUTY ON THE VARIOUS ROADBLOCKS. ALL ASCRIBE THE IMPRESSIVE LEVEL OF LOCAL INTER-GROUP COOPERATION TO THE EXISTENCE OF A COMMON ENEMY, IN FLEC.

4. THE CABINDANS. ALL EVIDENCE CONTINUES TO INDICATE THE CABINDANS THEMSELVES OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE AND FLEC. (ASK A CABINDAN WHICH GROUP HE SUPPORTS AND HE ANSWERS "FLEC, OF COURSE, I'M A CABINDAN.") THEY DON'T, HOWEVER, SEEM ALL THAT ANXIOUS TO FIGHT FOR EITHER. FEELING AGAINST PORTUGUESE WHITES IS RUNNING HIGH, THEY ARE BEING BLAMED FOR CAVING IN TO THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION GROUPS. THE CABINDANS PROFESS STILL TO TAKE THE TREATY OF SIMULAMBUCO QUITE SERIOUSLY.

5. FLEC. THE HIGHEST RANKING FLEC LEADER LEFT IN CABINDA IS PARTY VP FRANCISCO VALEUR SOUSA WITH WHOM THE CONGEN OFFICER TALKED BRIEFLY. FIRST VP N'ZITA TIAGO IS IN KINSHASA AND ALEXANDRE TATI IS REPORTED TO BE AT THE FLEC TRAINING CAMP AT MAMBE (PHONETIC) IN ZAIRE. FLEC REPRESENTATIVES IN CABINDA SAY THEY WANT NO DEALS ON "AUTONOMY" WITH ANY OF THE THREE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUANDA 00651 01 OF 02 280950Z

ANGOLAN LIBERATION GROUPS. THEY SAY THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH ZAIRE AND CONGOLESE HELP, THE ANGOLAN AND PORTUGUESE TROOPS CAN BE DRIVEN FROM CABINDA. MOBUTU HIMSELF DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE VIEWED BY FLEC AS A REAL THREAT. INSTEAD THEY FEEL AFRICAN AND OAU OPINION WITH DETER HIM FROM A STRAIGHT POWER GRAB IN CABINDA. THEY PROFESS NOT TO HAVE CONSIDERED THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR A QUID (OIL) FOR HIS QUO (MILITARY HELP).

6. FLEC'S ARMY. FLEC IS CREDITED WITH SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 300 AND 7,000 TROOPS, ALL NOW OUTSIDE CABINDA ITSELF. PART OF THE EXTREME DISCREPANCY IN THE ESTIMATES IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE FACT THE HIGH FIGURE - SUPPLIED BY THE PORTUGUESE ARMY - INCLUDES ZAIRIAN TROOPS SUPPOSEDLY DETAILED TO FLEC. OUR ESTIMATE IS 900 TO 1,000 CABINDAN TROOPS, 350 EX-PORTUGUESE ARMY-TE'S (SPECIAL TROOPS) PLUS 550-650 NEW RECRUITS. THE EX-TE'S (BLACK COMMANDOS) WHO ARE PARTLY EX-MPLA AND ALL EXCELLENT JUNGLE FIGHTERS ARE PROBABLY SERVING AS INSTRUCTORS. SEVERAL CABINDAN SOURCES (BUT NOT THE FLEC PEOPLE) CLAIM FLEC HAS BEEN GIVEN 15 APC'S BY THE CONGO. THESE, IF THEY EXIST AND HAVE INDEED BEEN GIVEN TO FLEC, ARE PROBABLY SOVIET ITEMS SENT TO, BUT DIVERTED FROM, MPLA.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00651 02 OF 02 280946Z

10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 /081 W

----- 086633

R 280730Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3604

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 0651

7. "FROM COPCON." A GULF OFFICIAL AND THE UNITA DELEGATION CHIEF IN CABINDA BOTH REPORT HEARING THAT DURING JUNE THE PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS NOW IN CABINDA WILL BE PULLED OUT AND REPLACED BY TWO COMPANIES OF COPCON TROOPS FROM PORTUGAL. ONE COMPANY IS EARMARKED FOR CABINDA CITY, THE OTHER FOR INSIDE GULF'S INSTALLATION. THE UNITA LEADER IN CABINDA SAYS THAT UNITA AND FNLA WILL DEFINITELY FIGHT TO PREVENT THE INSTALLATION OF "COPCON COMMUNISTS" IN CABINDA.

8. THE CHILDREN. MPLA IS CONSPICUOUSLY TRAINING 9-14 YEAR OLDS WITH WOODEN RIFLES. ON MAY 24 MPLA PARADED THEIR YOUTHFUL CADRE TO AND FRO IN FRONT OF FNLA MINISTER (AGRICULTURE) MATEUS NETO'S AIRCRAFT AS HE WAS ABOUT TO DEPART. THE MINISTER WAS NOT AMUSED. CHATTING WITH THE CONGEN OFFICER WHILE WAITING FOR THE FLIGHT TO BE CALLED, THE UNITA DISTRICT CHIEF AND HIS MILITARY COMMANDER BOTH EXPRESSED DISMAY AT THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF YOUNGSTERS. FLEC, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS DELIGHTED. IT FEELS ONCE THE CHILDREN RECEIVE REAL WEAPONS THEY'LL PROMPTLY DEFECT TO FLEC.

9. PROGNOSIS. WE REMAIN OF THE OPINION THAT THE KEY TO CABINDA'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 00651 02 OF 02 280946Z

FUTURE IS WHAT HAPPENS IN ANGOLA. A SERIOUS, SUSTAINED CIVIL WAR HERE WILL DRAIN OFF LIBERATION GROUP STRENGTH IN THE ENCLAVE AND OPEN THE DOOR TO A FLEC/ZAIRE/CONGO INVASION. HOWEVER IN THE ABSENCE OF REAL WAR HERE IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW SUCH AN INVASION COULD SUCEED QUICKLY.
PORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, LIBERATION FRONTS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA00651
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750186-0036
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750514/aaaaamas.tel
Line Count: 194
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LUANDA 0617, 75 AND 0618
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CABINDA
TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO, CG, MPLA, FNLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006